

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number: 15561-017001
	Application Number 10/719,002	Filed November 20, 2003
	First Named Inventor Nova Spivack et al.	
	Art Unit 2163	Examiner R. Rose

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a Notice of Appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).
Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.


I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
Sec 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

☒ attorney or agent of record 43,352
(Reg. No.)

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____



Signature

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August 21, 2007

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of no. forms are submitted.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Nova Spivack et al.	Art Unit	: 2163
Serial No.	: 10/719,002	Examiner	: R. Rose
Filed	: November 20, 2003	Conf. No.	: 9098
Title	: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MANAGING ENTITIES IN A COMPUTING DEVICE USING SEMANTIC OBJECTS		

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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Applicants submit this request pursuant to the New Pre-Appeal Conference Pilot Program. Applicants may address additional matters on appeal in any subsequent appeal brief.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending, with claims 1 and 3 being independent. All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,847,974 ("Wachtel") in view of U.S. 6,839,701 ("Baer").

Applicants' claim 1 is directed to a semantic object representing an entity or tacit information. The object comprises semantic tags and rules. The rules embody "goals, automation and other policies regarding at least one of: how the semantic object (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automatic processes." Applicants note that the part regarding "how the semantic object (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automatic processes" relates to the rules according to claim 1. In some implementations, copies of the semantic objects are distributed to other users (page 19, line 17—page 20, line 4), for example by transmitting them over a computer network (page 21, lines 17-20). Thus, it is an advantage to have the rules included in the semantic object so that they are available at the receiving end. Applicants submit that Wachtel and Baer, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a semantic object that includes rules as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants' independent claim 3 is directed to a method of documenting information. The method includes creating a semantic card that is configured to represent resource

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information or tacit information. The semantic card includes tags for identifying semantic information, and rules regarding at least one of: how the semantic card (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automated processes. The method includes seeking to detect an information resource containing information that can be represented by the semantic card. If the information resource is found, the method includes linking the semantic card to the information resource such that the semantic card represents the information resource. The semantic card is also configured to have a link to or from any number of other semantic cards. Applicants note that the part regarding how the semantic object interacts with, is manipulated by, and is displayed to human beings and automatic processes is embodied in the rules according to the claim. Applicants submit that Wachtel and Baer, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method that involves creating a semantic object including rules as recited in independent claim 3.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the pending claims as unpatentable over Wachtel in view of Baer is legally and factually wrong, because even the combination of the two references fails to disclose several features of the present independent claims.

1. Wachtel relates to a service message response and does not disclose the claimed rules included in a semantic object or card.

Wachtel discloses a method and apparatus for “intelligent data assimilation”. Wachtel Title. The intelligent data assimilation comprises providing a data result to a client in response to a service request message. Wachtel column 4, lines 48-61 (hereafter “Wachtel 4:48-61”). Particularly, Wachtel describes that the service request message containing search parameters is transmitted from a data client host to the intelligent data assimilation system. Id. This system, in turn, transmits a query to a data provider server which then responds to the query with a data set. Id. The intelligent data assimilation system populates the ontological instance of the returned data and transmits a formatted data result to the data client. Id. There is no reference made in Wachtel of a semantic object or semantic card including rules as required by independent claims 1 and 3.

The Examiner acknowledged that Wachtel does not disclose “the meta-data being paired with the semantic tags and wherein the semantic tags can be extended by an owner of the semantic object and shared over a network”. Applicants agree with this analysis.

However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “rules embodying goals” is disclosed in Wachtel 6:62. Wachtel 6:62 discusses that a product configurator provides the ability to choose and place semantic objects into a workflow, and also to configure other attributes about a data product including input rules, among other things. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Wachtel that a semantic object should include rules as required by the present claims. On the contrary, Wachtel's Figure 4 shows examples of the semantic objects that the disclosed system can work with. There, a “person name” semantic object 150 is made up by grouping a first name 147, a middle initial 151 and a last name 149. Wachtel 9:59-65. Accordingly, such a semantic object is significantly different from that required by the present claims, which includes rules as specified in claims 1 or 3.

Applicants disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “automation and other policies regarding how the semantic object interacts with” is disclosed in Wachtel's Figure 9 and Wachtel 13:47-51. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim, such that it is the rules that must embody “automation and other policies regarding ... ” etc. Second, the cited passages of Wachtel do not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. Rather, Wachtel 13:47-51 states that Figure 9 depicts interactions within a workflow with optional processes. Particularly, the workflow begins with the receipt of a search service request message and this leads to a workflow instance being invoked. Wachtel 13:52-63. The workflow instance, in turn, calls a logical search object (LSO) which transmits a data request message to a data provider and receives a requested data message in return. Wachtel 14:42-49. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of rules regarding interaction being included in the object.

Applicants disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “is manipulated by, ... human beings” is disclosed in Wachtel 5:26. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. That is, Wachtel 5:26 relates to creating and manipulating a

repository of logical search objects. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of including rules in the object relating to how the semantic object is manipulated by human beings.

Applicants disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “and is displayed to human beings” is disclosed in the Abstract of Wachtel. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. The Wachtel Abstract describes that graphical user interfaces provide facilities for creating logical search objects and aggregating logical search objects into workflows and services. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of including rules in the object relating to how the semantic object is displayed to human beings.

Applicants disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “automatic processes” is disclosed in Wachtel 9:21. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. Wachtel 9:21 states that an intelligent data assimilation system can use a “weblogic process integrator” to implement workflow tasks, and that this integrator provides the ability to design and automate business processes. But there is no disclosure or suggestion in Wachtel that an object should include rules as specified in claims 1 or 3.

Applicants disagree with the suggestion that the present subject matter “a semantic object can be searched using semantic tags and metadata contained in the semantic object” is disclosed in Wachtel's Figures 7a and 7b, and Wachtel 11:27-35. Wachtel does not disclose a semantic object as required by the independent claim 1, for reasons similar to those discussed above.

2. Baer relates to performing queries and merging results, and does not disclose the claimed rules included in a semantic object or card.

Baer relates to a hitmask for querying hierarchically related content entities. Baer Title. Queries are executed on hierarchical containers and “noncontainers” and the results are merged using hit masks. Baer Abstract. Baer discusses a library server, object servers and library clients on a network. Baer 5:27-45. But there is no suggestion that a semantic object should include rules as required by the present claims. Particularly, Baer 5:65—6:2 describes that it must be specified which other patrons have access to the object, but there is no suggestion that a semantic object should include rules as specified by the present claims. Baer's Figures 22A and 22B,

moreover, show the system administrator interface of a content management system. Baer, Brief Description of Drawings. Particularly, Baer's Figure 22A shows three options available to the user as hypertext links. Baer 85:31-38. Baer's Figure 22B, in turn, shows a list of attributes displayed by an approval function that is invoked by clicking on a link in the system administrator interface. Baer 85:48-54. But there is no disclosure or suggestion in Baer of the semantic objects, and the included rules, as required by the present claims.

As such, Applicants disagree with the suggestion that Baer discloses "the meta-data being paired with the semantic tags and wherein the semantic tags can be extended by an owner of the semantic object and shared over a network".

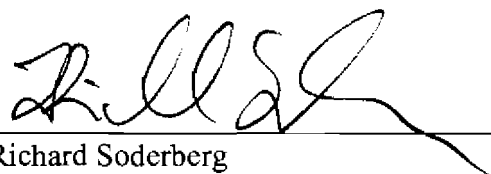
Applicants submit that Wachtel combined with Baer does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of the present claims. The present claims are therefore patentable over Wachtel and Baer, alone or taken in combination.

In view of the above, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/21/07



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